

# MICHIGAN STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICE PAPER RECYCLING PROGRAM 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

## Background

In 1988, the Michigan Legislature passed Public Act (PA) 411 mandating that all state offices recycle office paper. PA 411 was codified in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, to include the following directive to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ):



*"Section 1650: (1). The department shall establish and implement a paper recycling system to recycle wastepaper products that are recyclable and for which there is an accessible and available market. The recycling system shall include the recyclable wastepaper products generated in the offices and other facilities of state departments and state agencies, the offices and other facilities of the legislature, and the judicial offices and other facilities within this state. The department may work with other state departments and hire private contractors to establish or implement all or a portion of the recycling system under this part."*

The MDEQ and the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (MDMB) jointly carry out these responsibilities under a Memorandum of Understanding, see Appendix A. This report responds to this legislative directive and focuses on the information the departments have compiled on current recycling activity. This report is being submitted to the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House, and the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, in accordance with this directive.

## Market Analysis

This report addresses the contracts the state of Michigan has to collect, shred, and recycle sensitive documents from its offices around the state, as well as the one to collect all fiber (newsprint, corrugated containers, and mixed and white office paper) from Lansing area state government facilities.

In 2004, the cost of recycling state office paper in the Lansing area was \$121,000, resulting in the recycling of over 2 million pounds of fiber. In 2005, the cost was \$136,292 resulting in the recycling of almost 2.4 million pounds of fiber.



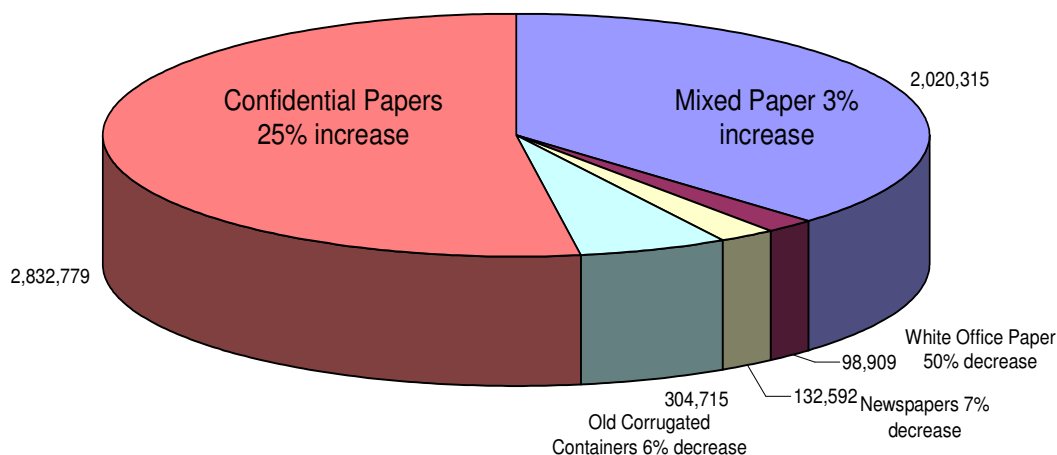
### Staff Participation in Government Sponsored Recycling

The state government Office Paper Recycling Program (OPRP) contract serves 70 buildings in the greater Lansing area. Over 16,000 state employees work in this area. There is no system for measuring the amount of recycling available in over 1,000 state facilities outside of the Lansing area, in which approximately 39,000 state employees work.

### Volume of Paper Recycled

In addition to the paper recycled by Friedland Industries in the Lansing area, Confidential Document Destruction (CDD) of Toledo, Ohio, has handled the destruction and recycling of confidential papers since 2000. This contract requires CDD to pick up paper at state facilities all over the Lower Peninsula. In 2004, the cost for collection, destruction of data, and recycling of 2,273,598 pounds of confidential records was \$120,084.93. In 2005 it cost \$146,658 to collect, destroy, and recycle 2,832,779 pounds of confidential records.

### **Pounds of Michigan State Office Paper Recycled in 2005, with changes over 2004 figures**



Source: Friedland Industries and CDD collection figures for calendar year 2005.

### State Office Paper Recycling Rate

Using figures provided by the MDMB regarding the amount of office paper purchased and recycled by state government in 2005, the state office paper recycling rate reached 80 percent. This is a 21 percent increase over last year's rate of 66 percent. There were two changes in state government office paper recycling volumes worth noting:

1. White paper volume decreased by 50 percent
2. Confidential material being destroyed and recycled by CDD increased by 25 percent

### Environmental Benefits

The following are potential environmental benefits resulting from the state government OPRP in 2005. These figures were generated using the National Recycling Coalition's environmental benefits calculator<sup>1</sup>:

- Avoided destruction of 48,096 trees
- Reduced the generation of waterborne wastes by 12.4 tons
- Lowered air emissions by 3,242.6 tons
- Saved 32,883 million British Thermal Units of energy, this is equivalent to the amount of energy needed to power 313 typical United States households for one year

### Outreach Activities

Staff in the MDEQ and the MDMB are continually responding to requests and questions from agencies and staff about office paper recycling. The MDMB recycling Web site is available to staff at [http://www.michigan.gov/dmb/0,1607,7-150-9141\\_25043---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmb/0,1607,7-150-9141_25043---,00.html). The MDEQ staff continue to pursue the development of a state government recycling work group that can provide feedback to improve state government recycling, as well as be conduits to their agencies for recycling information. Appendix B provides a case study of a recycling program that has developed over the past year in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) using what was started in the Constitution Hall as a model. This latter program is highlighted in the 2004 state government OPRP Report.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Recycling Coalition Environmental Benefits calculator uses information obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to calculate environmental benefits of recycling a variety of materials. The National Recycling Coalition is a non-profit membership organization composed of professional recyclers from businesses and governments across the United States.

## Appendix A

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AND THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (referred to as MDEQ) and the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (referred to as MDMB) is entered into for the sole purpose of delineating the respective roles and responsibilities regarding implementation of Section 16502 of Part 165, Office Paper Recovery, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451). This agreement supercedes the previous Memorandum of Understanding on "State Facilities Wastepaper Recycling," signed by the Directors of the Michigan Departments of Management and Budget, and Natural Resources in 1989.

Whereas, 1988 PA 411 (Act 411) created a paper recycling mandate for state government facilities, by requiring the establishment and implementation of a paper recycling system designed to recycle wastepaper products that are recyclable, and for which, there is an accessible and available market; and

Whereas, Act 411 was incorporated into Act 451 as Section 16502; and

Whereas, the MDEQ is named as the establishing and implementing authority; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan government operations are inherently viewed by the public and private industry as examples of proper environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan is committed to the positive environmental impacts that a successful recycling program can provide to protect the state's natural resources; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan government operations are fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the state to develop the most economically viable recycling program possible; and

Whereas, the MDEQ is directed to work with other state departments to implement all or a portion of the recycling system under Act 451; and

Whereas, Michigan agencies and vendors are interested in building community and shared responsibility for operating state government services.

Now, therefore, it is hereby understood that:

The MDEQ shall convey to all state employees the importance of office paper recycling, and their responsibility in participating in every recycling opportunity available to them; and

The MDEQ shall provide technical assistance to state office facilities interested in setting up office paper recycling programs; and

The MDEQ shall meet periodically with state agency facility managers, and others involved in state office building paper recycling to gather information on the status of office paper recycling

**Appendix A**

programs; and provide support, as needed, to expand recycling when feasible; and to provide a vehicle for identifying areas for waste reduction, and recycling in state office facilities; and

The MDEQ shall compile an annual written report to be sent to the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House, and the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court detailing implementation, operation, and participation in the State Office Paper Recycling program; and

The MDEQ and MDMB shall meet periodically to review, assess, and modify the recycling program; and

The MDMB shall support the MDEQ in their effort to ensure that all state employees are made aware of the recycling opportunity available to them via the state contract(s); and

The MDMB shall act as contract administrator to such contract(s) that result from the paper recycling program, and confidential records destruction program; and

The MDMB shall administer the financial accounting functions for all related transactions pertaining to such contract(s) and programs; and

The MDMB office paper recycling contract administrator will provide the MDEQ with office paper recycling data gathered via the contract(s) it administers. This information shall be incorporated into the MDEQ's annual report.

This agreement shall be effective upon the signature of both parties and remain in effect until three years from the effective date of this agreement. Termination prior to this date may be made by either party upon 30 days' written notice.

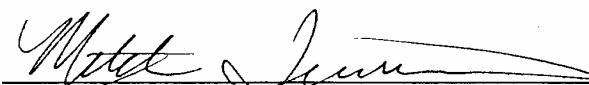
In witness thereof, the parties sign their names as evidence of their approval of this Memorandum of Understanding.

For the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality:

  
Steven E. Chester, Director

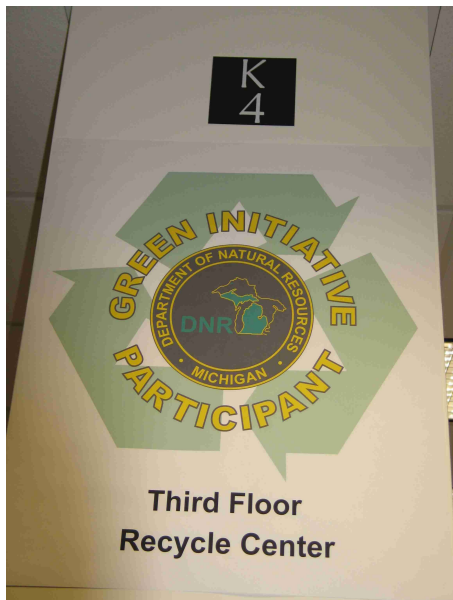
12-3-03  
Date

For the Michigan Department of Management and Budget:

  
Mitch Irwin, Director

12-3-03  
Date

## Appendix B



### Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division – Green Initiative

*The MDNR Green Initiative primary goal is to increase awareness for employees and visitors on diverting waste from disposal and reusing valuable resources.*

The MDNR Green Initiative involves 30 facilities around the state setting up recycling systems for staff and visitors to divert material that would otherwise end up in the state's landfills. Items being recycled include oils and fluids from park vehicles, household batteries, surplus paints, cardboard, magazines, white and colored paper, and Styrofoam containers. In addition to recycling, several offices have renegotiated their waste contracts reducing the number of times their dumpsters are emptied by removing corrugated cardboard for

recycling. The savings averaged \$2,000 per contract. Other efforts resulted in clearing up scrap yards, recycling of metals and obtaining a grant that cleared out over 100 scrap tires from service areas.

In early 2005, Lisa Gamero, Stewardship Specialist, Parks and Recreation Division, MDNR, spearheaded the establishment of an office recycle center following the example created by the MDEQ, Michigan Department of Agriculture, and other agency staff in Constitution Hall, Lansing. In addition to paper being collected through the Lansing area OPRP, this MDNR office uses volunteers to collect and haul recyclables to community recycling centers. The program is so popular; there is suspicion that staff from other floors are 'sneaking' recyclables into the center. Increased interest in setting up a similar center in another part of the building is growing.



Future plans may include a recycling program at all state parks, harbors, and recreation areas and to invitations for visitors to recycle waste generated during their visit. For more information about the MDNR Green Initiative, see the MDNR Web site at: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365\\_37783-124690--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_37783-124690--,00.html), or contact Lisa Gamero at 517-241-4789, or by e-mail at [gamerol@michigan.gov](mailto:gamerol@michigan.gov); or contact Carl Lindell, Bay City District Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Division, MDNR, at 989-686-3859.